

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 7-9 in accordance with the following:

1. (Previously Presented) A file management method for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, comprising:

analyzing a folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration and creating a scanned data folder accessible by the mail software, if necessary;

creating the same folder configuration in a file system that is shared by the mail software and that reads documents by use of a scanner, copies those documents into the scanned data folder and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information; and

performing file management by executing filing processing for the created folder configuration, wherein

the analysis of the folder configuration is performed at the time of startup of the file management software, regularly, or upon user's requests, and

when the folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A file management method according to claim 1, wherein mail data items are obtained from the mail software and are stored in corresponding folders created in the file system and mail data and other files are managed in the file system under a same environment.

4. (Original) A file management method according to claim 1, wherein when a file is stored in a folder in the file system, a mail including information regarding a link to the file, detailed information of the file, and the file itself is transmitted to a mail address of a user, whereby the file is managed on the mail software.

5. (Previously Presented) A file management method according to claim 1, wherein the folder configuration of the mail software is created on two or more storage units.

6. (Original) A file management method according to claim 5, wherein image data read by use of a scanner are simultaneously stored in the two or more storage units.

7. (Previously Presented) A file management system for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, comprising:

a folder configuration analysis section analyzing a folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration and creating a scanned data folder accessible by the mail software, if necessary; and

a folder configuration creation section creating the same folder configuration in a file system that is shared by the mail software and that reads documents by use of a scanner, copies those documents into the scanned data folder and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information, wherein

file management is performed by executing filing processing for the file folder configuration created by the folder configuration creation section,

the analysis of the folder configuration is performed at the time of startup of the file management software, regularly, or upon user's requests, and

when the folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, the program executing:

analyzing a folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration and creating a scanned data folder accessible by the mail software, if necessary;

creating the same folder configuration in a file system that is shared by the mail software and that reads documents by use of a scanner, copies those documents into the scanned data folder and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information; and

performing file management by executing filing processing for the created folder configuration, wherein

the analysis of the folder configuration is performed at the time of startup of the file management software, regularly, or upon user's requests, and

when the folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, comprising:

analyzing, at the time of startup of the file management software, a folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration and creating a scanned data folder accessible by the mail software, if necessary; and

creating the same folder configuration in a file system that is shared by the mail software and that reads documents by use of a scanner, copies those documents into the scanned data folder and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information, wherein

when the folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software.